

II. REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 16-20, 22-24, and 31-72 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 16, 17, and 30-32 were examined and were rejected. Claims 18-20, 22-24, and 33-41 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 16 is amended. The amendments to claim 16 were made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and are not to be construed as an acquiescence to any objection or rejection of any claim. Support for the amendments to claim 16 is found in the claims as originally filed, and throughout the specification, in particular at the following exemplary locations: page 13, lines 8-10. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 30 is canceled without prejudice to renewal, without intent to acquiesce to any rejection, and without intent to surrender any subject matter encompassed by the canceled claim. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claims 42-72 are added. Support for new claims 42-72 is found in the claims as originally filed, and throughout the specification, including the following exemplary locations: claims 42-44: page 12, line 25 to page 13, line 10; claims 45 and 67: page 9, lines 8-9; and page 44, line 12 to page 45, line 6; claims 46, 59, and 66: page 10, lines 2-5; claims 47, 60, and 68: page 28, lines 25-28; page 29, line 12 to page 32, line 7; claims 48, 61, and 69: page 29, line 25 to page 30, line 12; claims 49, 62, and 70: page 30, lines 13-22; claim 50: page 28, lines 11-28; page 10, lines 24-27; and page 9, lines 18-28; claims 51-54: page 13, lines 8-10; claim 55: Figure 1; claims 56 and 71: page 28, lines 25-28; claims 57, 58, 64, and 65: page 28, lines 17-19; claim 63: claim 16 as originally filed; page 10, lines 21-23; claim 72: page 10, lines 7-8. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these new claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks made herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 16, 17, and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

The Office Action stated that claim 16 recites the terms “glycosyl transferase-3” and “KSGal6ST,” and further stated that it is unclear what specific proteins Applicants intend. Applicants

respectfully traverse the rejection.

The specification provides ample description of glycosyl sulfotransferase-3 (GST-3) polypeptides. For example, the specification discusses various features of GST-3 polypeptides. Specification, page 9, line 8 to page 10, line 15. Similarly, KSGal6ST polypeptides are described in the instant application. See, e.g., specification, page 11, lines 1-7. Accordingly, based on the description in the specification, those skilled in the art would understand the terms “GST-3” and “KSGal6ST.”

Nevertheless, and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, claim 16 is amended to recite “A method for inhibiting a binding event between a selectin and a selectin ligand, said method comprising: contacting a cell that produces said selectin ligand with an agent that inhibits the sulfation activity of a glycosyl sulfotransferase-3 (GST-3) polypeptide, wherein the GST-3 polypeptide catalyzes the transfer of a sulfate group from a donor compound to a selectin ligand precursor, wherein the GST-3 polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a sequence that is at least 75% identical to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.” Claim 16 as amended includes the recitation of claim 30. The Office Action stated that claim 30 is not indefinite with regard to a glycosyl sulfotransferase-3. Accordingly, claim 16 as amended complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 16, 17, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been adequately addressed in view of the remarks set forth above. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

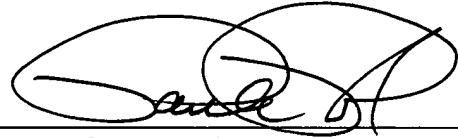
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number UCAL107DIV.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: Apr. 28, 2004

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